

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

CHARLIE EDGMON, by and through his
next friend, THOMAS DEGROOT,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

SUSAN E. BIRCH; COORDINATED
CARE OF WASHINGTON, INC.; and
SOUND,

Defendant(s).

CASE NO. 2:22-cv-00287-TL

ORDER ON PARTIES' MOTION
FOR GUARDIAN *AD LITEM*

This matter is before the Court on the Parties' Proposed Order Appointing Settlement Guardian *ad Litem*, which was converted into a joint motion so that the Court could consider the Parties' request (the "Motion for Guardian *ad Litem*"). Dkt. No. 46. The Parties request that a guardian *ad litem* be appointed for Plaintiff Charlie Edgmon, who has an intellectual disability, to review the terms of the Parties' tentative settlement agreement on Mr. Edgmon's behalf. *Id.* The Motion for Guardian *ad Litem* is accompanied by a "Supported Decision-Making

1 Agreement,” which shows that Mr. Edgmon has appointed two “supporters” to assist him with
2 “everyday life decisions.” Dkt. No. 46-2 at 2.

3 Local Civil Rule 17(c) provides that, “[i]n every case where the court is requested to
4 approve a settlement involving the claim of a minor or incompetent, an independent guardian ad
5 litem, who shall be an attorney-at-law, must be appointed by the court”

6 The Motion for Guardian *ad Litem* contains insufficient supporting details for the Court
7 to decide the Motion. In particular, the Motion for Guardian *ad Litem* is devoid of details
8 regarding the qualifications and any relevant prior relationship with the Parties or their counsel
9 of the Parties’ proposed guardian *ad litem*, Ms. Barbara Byram. The Court cannot even
10 determine, on the face of the Motion and its supporting materials, whether Ms. Byram is an
11 attorney, much less whether she is sufficiently qualified and independent to represent
12 Mr. Edgmon’s interests in evaluating the Parties’ tentative settlement. *See* LCR 17(c).

13 Accordingly, the Court hereby STRIKES the Motion for Guardian *ad Litem* (Dkt. No. 46)
14 and DIRECTS the Parties to submit, **within fourteen (14) days** of this Order, a renewed motion
15 with supporting materials showing that Ms. Byram is qualified and independent to serve as
16 Mr. Edgmon’s guardian *ad litem*.

17
18 Dated this 11th day of October 2022.

19 
20 _____
21 Tana Lin
22 United States District Judge
23
24